CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
NATIVE VILLAGE OF ELIM

We, a group of Eskimos having the common bond of living together in the Village of Elim, Territory of Alaska, in order to have better life and greater security, make for ourselves this Constitution and By-laws, by authority of the act of Congress of June 18, 1934, as amended by the acts of June 15, 1935 and May 1, 1936.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

This organization shall be called the "Native Village of Elim".

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. First Members. All persons whose names are on the list of native residents, made according to the Instructions of the Secretary of the Interior for organization in Alaska, shall be members of the Village.

Section 2. Children of Members. All children of any members shall be members of the Village.

Section 3. Loss of Membership. Any member may willingly give up his membership, or his membership may be taken away for good reason by the Village, or if he moves away from the Village, intending not to return, he shall lose his membership.

Section 4. New Membership. Any person who has lost his membership and any other native person may be made a member if he sets up a home in the Village.

Section 5. Membership Rules. The Village may make rules to govern membership, either for the purpose of carrying out this Article or covering

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membership matters not taken care of in this Article.

ARTICLE 3 - GOVERNING BODY

Section 1. Choice of Governing Body. At a general meeting following the acceptance of this Constitution, the Village membership shall decide what kind of governing body it wishes to set up to speak and act for the Village and to use the powers of the Village. If there is a governing body already set up in the Village, at the time this Constitution is accepted, the membership may decide to keep that governing body, or it may choose a new form of government.

Section 2. Choice of Officers. The Village shall at the same time decide how members and officers of the governing body shall be chosen and how long they shall serve. The Village shall then choose the members to serve on the governing body and such officers as may be thought necessary.

Section 3. Meetings of Membership and Governing Body. The Village shall decide when and how often there should be meetings of the whole Village membership as well as of the governing body; also it shall decide what notice shall be given for the calling of meetings and how many members must be present at such meetings in order to do business; and it may make any other rules necessary for the holding of meetings. A general meeting of the whole membership shall be held at least once a year.

Section 4. Record and Report of Village Decisions. A record shall be made and kept of all the rules made under sections 1, 2, and 3 of this Article, which record shall be called the Record of Organization of the Native Village of Elim. Copies of this record shall be given to the teacher or other representative of the Office of Indian Affairs serving the Village. There shall be put in the record the names of all persons chosen to be officers of the Village.

ARTICLE 4 - POWERS OF THE VILLAGE

Section 1. Powers held. The Village shall have the following powers:

To do all things for the common good which it has done or has had the right to do in the past and which are not against Federal law and such Territorial law as may apply.

To deal with the Federal and Territorial Governments on matters which interest the Village, to stop any giving or taking away of Village lands or other property without its consent, and to get legal aid, as set forth in the act of June 18, 1934.

To control the use by members or nonmembers of any reserve set aside by the Federal Government for the Village and to keep order in the reserve.

To guard and to foster native life, arts and possessions and native customs not against law.

Section 2. Grant of More Powers. The Village may have and use such other powers as may be given to it by the Federal or Territorial Government.

Section 3. Use of Powers. The governing body shall put into use such of the powers of the Village as the Village may give to it at general meetings of the membership and shall make reports of its actions to the membership at general meetings.

Section 4. Rule-making Power. The Village may make rules which are not against law to carry out the words of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 5 - RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Right to Vote. All members of the Village 21 years of age or over shall have the right to vote in Village meetings and elections.

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Section 2. Right to Speak and Meet Freely. Members of the Village shall have the right to speak and meet together freely in a peaceable way.

Section 3. Right to Share in Benefits. Members of the Village shall have equal chance to share in the benefits of the Village.

ARTICLE 6 - CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION

Changes in this Constitution and By-laws may be made if the changes are approved by the Secretary of the Interior and by a majority vote of the Village members, voting in an election called by the Secretary of the Interior at which at least 30 per cent of the voting membership take part.

BY-LAWS
OF THE
NATIVE VILLAGE OF ELIM

ARTICLE I - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1. Village Records. The Village or the governing body shall choose one or more members who shall have the duty of keeping records of all actions and decisions of the Village and of the governing body and of giving copies of the records to the representative of the Office of Indian Affairs serving the Village.

Section 2. Village Funds. The Village or the governing body shall choose one or more members who shall have the duty of caring for the Village funds and keeping records of all funds taken in and paid out and giving copies of the records to the representative of the Office of Indian Affairs.

Section 3. Officers and Agents. The Village or the governing body may choose as many officers and agents as it may need to carry out its duties and shall state the length of service and the duties of each officer or agent when he is chosen.

ARTICLE II - ADOPTION

This Constitution and By-laws shall be in effect when it is agreed to by a majority vote of the Village members voting in an election called for the purpose by the Secretary of the Interior, provided that at least 30 per cent of the voting membership take part. The persons entitled to vote are all the adult native residents in the Village of Elim.

APPROVAL

This Constitution and By-laws is hereby approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior and submitted for acceptance or rejection by the group of Eskimos having a common bond of living together in the Village of Elim, Alaska, in an election called and held under the Instructions of the Secretary of the Interior.

All rules and regulations heretofore promulgated by the Interior Department or by the Office of Indian Affairs, so far as they may be incompatible with any of the provisions of the said constitution and by-laws will be inapplicable to the Village of Elim, Territory of Alaska, from and after the date of adoption of this constitution.

All officers and employees of the Interior Department are ordered to abide by the provisions of the said constitution and by-laws.

Oscar L. Chapman
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

SEAL

Date: MAY 23 1939
Washington, D. C.

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This Constitution and By-laws is hereby approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior and submitted for acceptance or rejection by the group of Eskimos having a common bond of living together in the Village of Elim, Alaska, in an election called and held under the instructions of the Secretary of the Interior.

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All officers and employees of the Interior Department are ordered to abide by the provisions of the said constitution and by-laws.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

SEAL

Washington, D. C.

Date: [illegible]

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

Pursuant to an order, approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, the attached constitution and by-laws was submitted for ratification to the group of Indians having a common bond of residence in the Village of Elim, Territory of Alaska, and was on duly ratified by a vote of for and against in an election in which over 30 per cent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots, in accordance with section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378).

Chairman, Election Board.

Government Representative.